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By jwl NARA, Date 1-27-98

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SUBJECT. CURRENT STATUS OF CIVILIAN DETENTION PROGRAM

1. THE CIVILIAN DETENTION PROGRAM HAS MADE SIGNIFICANT HEADWAY IN 1968. IN SPITE OF A SURGE IN THE NUMBER OF PERSONS CONFINED BECAUSE OF INCREASED MILITARY AND POLICE ACTIVITIES, CONFINEMENT SHELTER HAS NOW CAUGHT UP WITH THE PRISONER/DETAINEE POPULATION. OVER 13,000 NEW SPACES HAVE BEEN PROVIDED THIS YEAR. ONLY IV CTZ STILL HAS A SERIOUS OVERCROWDING PROBLEM WHICH IS BEING REDUCED BY TRANSFERS OF SENTENCED PRISONERS TO AREAS WHERE SPACE EXISTS AND BY CONSTRUCTION AT CAN THO.

2. IN THIS PERIOD, 4,696 DANGEROUS VC PRISONERS WERE MOVED TO THE MAXIMUM SECURITY OF CON SON ISLAND FIFTY MILES OFF THE EAST COAST OF IV CTZ. NEARLY HALF OF THEM WERE TAKEN FROM PRISONS IN I CTZ TO REDUCE THE ATTRACTIVENESS OF THESE FACILITIES TO VC ATTACK.

3. SINCE THE END OF THE TET OFFENSIVE NO PRISONER HAS ESCAPED OR BEEN FREED BY VC ATTACK IN SPITE OF 7 ATTACKS AGAINST PRISONS.

4. IN CONNECTION WITH AN EFFORT TO UPGRADE LIVING CONDITIONS, SANITARY FACILITIES, AND MEDICAL CARE FOR PRISONERS, IT IS NOTED THAT THE MONTHLY DEATH RATE DROPPED FROM 43 IN 1967 TO 19 THIS YEAR.

5. DETENTION EFFORTS ARE NOW CENTERED ON MAXIMUM SECURITY CONFINEMENT OF THE VIET CONG INFRASTRUCTURE, SEGREGATION OF VC PRISONERS FROM OTHERS, AND PLANNING OF A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROGRAM TO PROMOTE LOYALTY FOR THE GVN AMONG THE PRISONERS.

6. SINCE TET THE GVN HAS SHOWN INCREASED CONCERN FOR THE SECURITY, WELFARE, AND POLITICAL RE-EDUCATION OF VC PROSONERS.

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